

## **SITUATION REPORT NO. 1**

**INCIDENT NO. 2000-112**

**DATE: November 1, 2000**

**TIME: 6:30 p.m.**

**TO:** Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Tornadoes – A series of tornadoes moved through Burleigh, Morton, Oliver and McLean Counties on November 1, causing injuries and property damages. Reports indicate that most of the damage is in the city of Bismarck.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: Two injuries have been reported to local authorities. A Bismarck hospital treated and released one individual who sustained abrasions. Metro Area Ambulance transported an individual who was injured when gusty winds pushed a garbage dumpster against the individual.
3. DAMAGES: At least six tornadoes occurred in south central North Dakota this afternoon, just miles from where a winter weather advisory was in effect and within 150 miles of the area under a blizzard warning in eastern Montana. Preliminary reports indicate 42 Bismarck homes sustained minor to moderate damages. Burleigh County officials reported at least three homes were uninhabitable. Some power outages occurred.

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), one tornado touched down near Century High School and moved through north Bismarck, crossing Mustang Drive. Several homes sustained roof damage. Another tornado was spotted about five miles west of U.S. Highway 83 near the intersection of River Road and N.D. Highway 1804. It apparently began in the Ponderosa area of Bismarck and continued on a track northwest across the Missouri River into northeast Morton County near the Morton-Oliver County line. A third tornado touched down three miles east of New Salem in Morton County and crossed Interstate 94 near exit 127 at the junction of N.D. Highway 31. A fourth tornado touched down southwest of Wilton in Burleigh County and crossed into McLean County, south of Washburn, and ran parallel to U.S. Highway 83. A fifth tornado was spotted south of Turtle Lake in McLean County. A sixth tornado was reported along ND. Highway 200 A in southeast McLean County, between Washburn and Underwood.

Severe weather and possible tornadoes were also reported in the Regan and Driscoll areas of Burleigh County. A funnel cloud was reported near Menoken.

NWS meteorologists reported that a deep low-pressure system will move north across North Dakota tonight. Rain in the west will turn to snow. Also northerly winds of 30 to 35 miles per hour (mph) will cause blowing snow in the west spreading to north central by midnight. Rain will change to snow in south central North Dakota after midnight. Showers and thunderstorms are likely in the east. For tomorrow, windy conditions with snow

ending in the west in the morning and in the central by the afternoon are expected. There is also a chance of rain or snow in the east. Temperatures will be in the 30s.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: Local agencies responding to the emergency included: public works departments, law enforcement agencies, communications centers, emergency management offices, fire and rescue, ambulance services, medical facilities, elected officials and administrative offices.

STATE: State Radio Communications, N.D. Highway Patrol, N.D. Department of Transportation and North Dakota Emergency Management have been monitoring the situation.

FEDERAL: The National Weather Service issued detailed weather information and monitored conditions throughout western North Dakota.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The American Red Cross is helping to conduct a preliminary damage assessment of homes in northern Bismarck.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The city of Bismarck issued an emergency declaration after tornadoes touched down in northern portions of the city. The Bismarck/Burleigh County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated. EOC staff included representatives of the Bismarck Police Department, Bismarck Fire Department and the Bismarck Public Works Department.

The Bismarck Fire Department conducted a safety check in northwest Bismarck and found no injuries to individuals in the area bordered by 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Century Avenue, Overlook Drive and Washington Street. Firefighters reported no injuries. Bismarck Police and Fire personnel also conducted damage assessment.

Metro Area Ambulance placed ambulances on standby at three Bismarck fire stations.

The State Emergency Operations Center was activated and staffed by personnel from the North Dakota Highway Patrol, State Radio and North Dakota Emergency Management.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No assistance has been requested at this time.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No outside help on the scene was reported.

9. OTHER: Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director